

Mr. Weber on Nov. 4, 1980, achieved what a dozen Republican candidates before him could not: He defeated Thomas Ludlow Ashley, ending the Democrat's 26-year congressional career. In the presidential race, Ronald Reagan defeated Jimmy Carter. Lucas County results showed Mr. Weber had over 10,000 more votes than his party's standard bearer.

"He was proud of the fact that he did not ride on Reagan's coattails," the younger Mr. Weber said.

Two years later, Marcy Kaptur defeated Mr. Weber by a margin nearly identical to that by which he was elected. Ms. Kaptur has been re-elected every two years since.

He took issue, in a Blade Readers' Forum letter, with a report that he had admitted he could have done more to hold the 9th District seat.

"For two years while I served in Congress. I worked as hard as humanly possible to retain my seat short of compromising my principles and voting differently on the issues," Mr. Weber wrote to The Blade. "That loss remains the greatest personal disappointment of my life. However, I do not believe that anything I could have done differently in the 1982 campaign would have changed the outcome of that election."

Mr. Weber's startling defeat of the seemingly invincible Mr. Ashley was the product of a precision campaign plan effectively executed. He began planning more than two years earlier, before Mr. Ashley's November, 1978 victory. He first got the notion to run while working in his yard. He was then a volunteer for Mr. Ashley's Republican opponent.

"I felt that the country very badly needed a big change in its direction—away from overregulation, away from overtaxation, away from unemployment, and away from the inflationary trends," Mr. Weber told The Blade after his 1980 victory.

The younger Mr. Weber said: "His parents instilled in him a sense of community and civic duty."

The years since, he "developed a lot of respect for Marcy Kaptur," the younger Mr. Weber said. The former congressman and his wife contributed to Ms. Kaptur's campaigns on several occasions.

"He served with honor," Ms. Kaptur said Wednesday. "Ed and Alice Weber had a beautiful marriage and were committed to family, to faith, to community, and country. It was a lifetime of achievement, not just for themselves, but for our community. He was a gentleman."

As Mr. Weber returned to the practice of law, he retained his interest in the public good. He was co-chairman of a successful capital improvement levy campaign for the Toledo Zoo. He served as co-chairman of a campaign to find private funding for a museum ship on the Maumee River, what is now the S.S. Col. James M. Schoonmaker.

He tutored children in reading at a central Toledo school. He wrote the occasional letter to The Blade Readers' Forum. By the early 2010s, he no longer considered himself a Republican, having voted for Barack Obama twice, but also said he was not a Democrat.

He and his wife joined community members in arguing for Maumee River views and green space as they publicly spoke out against ProMedica's six-story parking garage in Promenade Park. In 2015, Mr. Weber endorsed the mayoral candidacy of another vocal opponent to the garage, Mike Ferrler, a former member of Toledo City Council who was defeated in a close contest for mayor in 1993.

Edward Ford Weber was born July 26, 1931, to Elenore and Ford R. Weber and grew up on Scottwood Avenue in the Old West End. He was a 1949 graduate of Scott High School,

where he played football. He received a bachelor's degree from Denison University, where he majored in mathematics and music.

He was a 1956 graduate of Harvard law school and afterward served in the Army at Fort Belvoir, Va., assigned to the judge advocate as an attorney in the legal assistance office. He began his legal career at the firm then known as Marshall, Melhorn, Bloch & Belt.

When Craig Frederickson was hired by the firm in 1975, Mr. Weber became his mentor and managing partner.

"I was so lucky," Mr. Frederickson said. "I have to say he was probably one of the most remarkable individuals I've ever known—his integrity, his ethics, his brilliance, and his ability to handle and teach a young attorney with patience. It was so impressive. His dealing with clients—he was honest and truthful. He actually cared."

George Glasser, a retired judge of the Ohio 6th District Court of Appeals, said: "He was an individual who had the courage of his convictions and stood for integrity and everything good."

From 1967–79, Mr. Weber taught trusts and estates at the University of Toledo law school.

He was a life member of what is now Ashland Church, from its historic home in central Toledo through its relocation more than 15 years ago to Oregon. He had been a trustee of the YMCA of Greater Toledo; the Toledo Museum of Art; the Red Cross in Toledo; the Clement O. Miniger Memorial Foundation; the Landman-Goldman Foundation, and the University of Chicago Divinity School.

He was a former district Boy Scouts chairman and was a scoutmaster for 13 years of a central Toledo troop.

Music was a favorite avocation. When he entered Denison, he took the advice of his mother—who oversaw many entertainment programs at their church—and enrolled in a course in harmony, along with prelaw studies.

After law school, he sang in the church choir and composed prayer responses and organ music. Mr. Weber in 1977, directed a performance of a musical he composed, "One Solitary Life," based on the life of Jesus. He dedicated the work to his mother. He also composed the processional march for his daughter Mary's wedding.

He played clarinet in the Maumee Community Band and played piano and trombone.

He also enjoyed hiking and backpacking out west and sailing the Great Lakes.

Surviving are his wife, the former Alice Hammerstrom, whom he married March 30, 1957; daughters Elenore Weber and Mary Due; son, Ford Weber; six grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Family and friends will be greeted from noon–7 p.m. March 24 at Walker Funeral Home, Sylvania Township. Services will be private.

The family suggests tributes to the Toledo Museum of Art or the Toledo Public Schools Foundation.

Published by The Blade on Mar. 2, 2023.

RECOGNIZING TAMPA BAY'S LOCAL TRAILBLAZER, CELESTE GIBBONS-PEOPLES, IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Celeste Gibbons-Peoples

for her nearly four decades of public service to the Tampa Bay community. Her influence in our community follows a tradition of excellence pioneered by her late father. Walter Lee "Dirk" Gibbons, who was a well-known Negro League Baseball player locally and nationally. She has committed her life to telling the stories of Black pioneers and celebrating the rich Black history of the Tampa area.

Born in the basement of a clinic in Ybor City and raised in East Tampa, Ms. Gibbons-Peoples attended Hillsborough High School and Hillsborough Community College where she started to foster her appreciation for Black history and its importance in life-long education. Her passion for this cause led her to become an active member of the City of Tampa's Black History Committee, Inc. for more than 30 years and served as its president 2014 through 2022. The Committee has awarded more than \$250,000 to high school seniors to further their education through college, university or vocational school.

Ms. Gibbons-Peoples came to City of Tampa government in 1985 and is currently its certified senior procurement analyst. Her hard work has not gone unnoticed by her colleagues and peers—in 2017, she was named Buyer of the Year by the National Institute of Government Purchasing for Tampa Bay.

Ms. Gibbons-Peoples continues to be a role model in our community. In 2010, she obtained her Certified Professional Public Buyer's (CPPB) certification and is also a Florida Certified Contract Manager (FCCM). Her love for her profession drives her position as president of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing. Through this organization, she helps provide educational opportunities for current and striving Purchasing Procurement professionals.

Volunteer work also plays an integral part in Ms. Gibbons-Peoples's impact on the Tampa Bay community. Her contributions include United Way Suncoast, Great American Teach-In, Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Inc., Ladies Auxiliary for the Woods and Wanton Tampa Chapter for Buffalo Soldiers, and the Community Charter Schools of Excellence. As a coach for the Boys and Girls Club and Police Athletic League, Ms. Gibbons-Peoples has helped children realize their true potential. In addition, she serves as president of the Usher Ministry No. 2 at Springhill Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker. I rise today in admiration and respect for Ms. Celeste Gibbons-Peoples who is the embodiment of altruism and forms an integral part of Tampa's own Black history.

HONORING ERICA BRADLEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hardworking and impactful leader, Ms. Erica Bradley. Ms. Bradley has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to achieve success.

Ms. Erica Bradley has been named Jefferson County School District's 2022–2023 Teacher of the Year. She is a second-year